

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /081 W

-----014365 081000Z /21

O 080840Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 656

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1306

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SITHOLE CLAIMS TO LEAD GUERRILLAS

AND SAYS HE WILL NOT ATTEND UN

1. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT SITHOLE SAID ON MARCH 7 THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE GUERRILLA FORCES THROUGHOUT THE INTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS AND HE WAS AWAITING THE FORMATION OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO ORDERING THEM TO RETURN HOME. WHEN ASKED IF HE LED BOTH THE GUERRILLAS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, SITHOLE REPORTEDLY REPLIED, " I AM THEIR FATHER, THEIR LEADER,, THEIR ADVISOR." HE SAID MUGABE WAS NOT THE SECRETARY- GENERAL OF ZANU BUT ONLY " A REBEL AND I WILL DEAL WITH
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HIM ACCORDINGLY." SITHOLE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD SENT "INDIRECT CONTACT MEN" TO PERSUADE NKOMO OF THE "PARACTICAL WISDOM OF RETURNING TO RHODESIA."

2. SITHOLE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE ONGOING DEBATDE IN THE UNSC, SAYING ITWAS " PREMATURE". HE SAID THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REACT FIRST TO THE

INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. " THE DELEGATES." HE SAID, " WILL
BE DISCUSSING THEIR OWN PREJUDICES RATHER THAN
THE FACTS IN RHODESIA. WE ARE NOT PUTTING MUCH
EMPHASIS ON PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE."

3. FOR MAPUTO: THE SAME ARTICLE ALSO CARRIES A REPORT
OF AN ATTEMPTED " COUP" AGAINST MUGABE. THE LEADERS
ARE SUPPOSEDLY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS RUGARE GUMBO
AND HENRY HAMADZIRIPI, WHO WERE DETAINED.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR01306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-0071
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780393/aaaadaln.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fdc097cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3404375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: SITHOLE CLAIMS TO LEAD GUERRILLAS AND SAYS HE WILL NOT ATTEND UN
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fdc097cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014